

## **FISCAL NOTE**

### **HB 2657 – SB 3292**

March 5, 2006

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Permits the use of transit style school buses by LEAs for a 25-year period provided such buses meet the inspection and waiver requirements.

#### **ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

**Local Govt. Expenditures – Net Decrease - Exceeds \$100,000/Permissive Over Time  
Increase State Expenditures – Not Significant/Department of Safety**

**Other Fiscal Impact – If transportation costs to the LEAs decline based on the reduced need to purchase new school buses, the BEP would generate less funding, thus decreasing the state and local share of the BEP.**

#### Assumptions:

- Any impact will only occur once buses are used longer than current practice allows.
- According to the Department of Education 2004 Annual Statistical Report more than 4,000 transit type school buses are being used throughout the state. These buses are inspected by the Department of Safety annually.
- Currently, after 15 years of service, a bus can be used an additional two years if the bus has less than 150,000 miles, and can be used up to 20 years of service if the bus is rebuilt or reconditioned.
- If LEAs opted to keep buses in service longer, the costs to LEAs could potentially decline. However, maintenance expenses could increase for buses over 15 years old.
- The cost of a new 78-passenger bus could be expected to cost between \$65,000 and \$70,000.
- Under the provisions of the bill, buses with more than 20 years of service must be inspected twice annually.
- According to the Department of Safety one trooper would need to be added for every 1,000 additional inspections as a result of keeping such buses in service longer. There will be no significant cost to the department until a number of LEAs decide to use such buses that would not have been used in the absence of the bill.

- The provisions of this bill appear to be contrary to Department of Education Rule 0520-1-5 that states “approved buses include transit buses remanufactured between the 12<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> year of service with 20 or less total years of service.

**CERTIFICATION:**

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James W. White". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" written in a smaller, more compact script than the last name "White".

James W. White, Executive Director